



Columbia Fire & Rescue

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Holiday Fire Safety:

Cooking Safety Tips

- Use back burners on the stove and turn handles so that pots cannot be knock or pulled over by children.
- Pay attention when cooking and avoid using excessive heat.
- Never leave food, especially grease, unattended on the stove.
- Use a fire dry powder fire extinguisher on grease fires, or cover the pot with a cooking sheet or lid. Never put water on a grease fire.
- Keep stove clean of excessive grease.
- Keep any items that may burn three feet from the stove and toasters when cooking.
- Do not wear loose clothing such as long hanging sleeves and robes while cooking.
- Never carry children and hot food or liquids at the same time.
- Place cooking appliances such as coffee makers, fryers, and their cords out reach of children.
- Never use grills and other out door equipment, under carports, in garages, or in the house.

Christmas Decorating

Christmas is almost here and for some decorating the home is a must. The Columbia Fire department wants you to have a fire safe holiday by taking the following precautions:

- Make sure that any electrical items you purchase is UL approved. Keep children and pets away from candles.
- Make sure Christmas trees are kept away from heat sources.
- Keep live Christmas trees well watered.
- Use approved lights for your tree. Use indoor lights inside and outdoor lights outside.
- Do not overload electric outlets or over use extension cords. Do not run electrical cords under rugs and carpets.
- Inspect light strings carefully for cracked sockets, frayed, bare wires, and loose connections.
- Keep electrical lights strands and decorations out of reach of children.
- Turn lights off before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Do not block doorways or hallways with decorations. All exits should be kept accessible.
- Blow candles out before leaving the house or going to bed
- Keep candles out of reach of children and pets